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TRENDS IN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
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S U P P L E M E N T

HANOI PROPAGANDA ON SIXTH SESSION OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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12 June 1970
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HANOI PROPAGANDA ON SIXTH SESSION OF THE DRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hanoi media on 6 June announced that the DRV National Assembly had held its sixth session. The dates are not specified, but the general statement issued by the session is dated the 5th. And a 7 June Hanoi account of closing remarks by National Assembly Standing Committee Chairman Truong Chinh quotes him as saying that the tasks of the session were completed after "several days of intensive work."

The third National Assembly was elected for the usual four-year term in 1964, and the first session of the Assembly was held in July of that year. Normally there are two sessions each year. But the second session in April 1965 gave the Assembly Standing Committee the responsibility of convening the legislature "when convenient" if it could not hold the regular semiannual sessions. The third session was not held until April 1966 and there was none at all in 1967. The third National Assembly's term expired in 1968, but the fourth Assembly session held in May that year extended its term indefinitely--an action which the 1960 DRV constitution says may be taken in extraordinary conditions such as war. The fifth session of the Assembly was held on 23 September 1969 to elect new DRV state leaders following Ho Chi Minh's death earlier that month.

Following standard practice, the Assembly heard opening as well as closing remarks by Truong Chinh, Premier Pham Van Dong's presentation of the Council of Minister's political report, and supplemental reports by Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap on the military situation and by Nguyen Con, Vice-Premier and State Planning Commission Chairman on the "immediate economic tasks and the 1970 state plan." Consistent with past practice, Giap's remarks have not been released. The session also heard reports by Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh on "diplomatic work" and Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRV delegation in Paris "on the situation at the Paris conference." Pham Van Bach, chief judge of the People's Supreme Court reported on the tribunal's work, and Hoang Quoc Viet, president of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, reported on the work of his branch.

The VNA report of the session notes that the Assembly appointed a Presidium composed of Ton Duc Thang, Le Duan, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Hoang Van Hoan, Vo Nguyen Giap, Nguyen Duy Trinh, Chu Van Tan, Xuan Thuy, Hoang Quoc Viet, Pham Van Bach, "and others." With the exception of Xuan Thuy, all the named members of this Presidium have been included on the Presidiums of the Assembly's sessions since the second of April 1965.

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POLITICAL REPORT

On the 7th, Hanoi radio broadcast the full text of the report delivered by Pham Van Dong, and VNA carried what it described as "large excerpts" of parts one and two, on the anti-U.S. struggle since 1969 and victories in the building of the socialist DRV. Inexplicably, VNA did not transmit part three--an analysis of "the struggle on the international and diplomatic fronts" until 9 and 10 June. The first part of the report predictably repeats the standard claim that U.S. Vietnamization policy is a means to prolong the war. It claims that failure of the policy prompted President Nixon to carry out a "massive" invasion of Cambodia--a "senseless adventure condemned by U.S. and world public opinion." The April Indochinese Summit Conference is as usual cited as an answer to the U.S. "war expansion" in Laos and Cambodia, and the report goes on to reaffirm the unity of the three Indochinese peoples.

The second part of the report recapitulates claims of success in defeating the U.S. "war of destruction" and strengthening the DRV's defenses as well as in building socialism in the North. The report says that since early 1969 North Vietnam has strived to overcome the effects of the war and that the national economy "has made initial though still slow progress and in some fields has recorded important achievements." It cites accomplishments "in the execution of the policy of economic reorientation" in such areas as transportation and communications, education, public health, and cultural services. Observing that agriculture was subjected to "successive natural calamities" during 1969, the report says it is beginning to progress. The report also spells out the tasks of the 1970 state plan, with its emphasis on production, especially in agriculture and consumer goods.

In the third section of the report, on the "struggle on international and diplomatic fronts," it is claimed that because of the "failure" in the war the United States has been driven into "an ever more serious crisis" which has reached "an unprecedented peak" since Nixon took office. And it observes that the "inner contradictions among the U.S. ruling circles" about domestic and foreign affairs, especially the Vietnam problem, "have become acute." "In the face of such failure and predicament," says the report, "the U.S. ruling circles" now have to resort to such new allegations and tricks as the "Nixon doctrine" and have "actively intensified the special war in Laos and openly invaded Cambodia."

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The report acclaims the mutual solidarity of the Lao, Khmer and Vietnamese people and says that the Vietnamese people "vehemently denounce and condemn the United States, its henchmen, and the reactionary groups in Asia for their attempts to misuse the name of the United Nations and other international bodies or congresses to increase the intervention and aggression in Cambodia." And it reaffirms the Vietnamese people's support for the Lao and Khmer peoples struggle.

The report also discusses the solidarity of the socialist camp, saying that the DRV has always done its best to contribute to the strengthening of the solidarity and friendship among the fraternal countries. It adds: "We rejoice at the current talks in Peking between the Soviet Union and China on the border question concerning the two countries and warmly wish the talks good success."* It affirms that, acting upon the "sacred testament of President Ho Chi Minh, we will always devote ourselves to restoring and consolidating the unity of the socialist camp."

NGUYEN CON ECONOMIC REPORT

Nguyen Con's report on the economy is briefly summarized by Hanoi on 7 June. On the 9th a broadcast by Hanoi indicates that the report includes 1) an analysis of the "implementation of economic tasks over past years and the present economic situation," 2) an outline of immediate economic tasks, and 3) a discussion of the 1970 state plan; Hanoi then broadcasts the text of part two.**

* The Sino-Soviet talks have previously received DRV attention. On 23 October, Pham Van Dong, visiting Peking after a tour that included the GDR and the USSR, at a banquet given by Chou En-lai expressed "deep hope and wishes" that the current Sino-Soviet talks in Peking--which he termed of "important significance"--will have "good results." Dong's remark represented the first statement on the talks by a leader of a communist country. See FBIS TRENDS, 29 October 1969, p. 21.

** The VNA press reviews of 8, 9, and 10 June carry Con's report but do not make it clear whether the full text was published. Thus the press review of the 8th says that his report "filled the second page" of both NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN; on the 9th it says "the dailies devoted much space to other parts" of Con's economic report and on the 10th it notes that "the last part" of Con's report carried by the dailies that day "dealt with the rational division and use of social labor, the improvement and strengthening of economic management and leadership, and what efforts to make to fulfill the 1970 state plan."

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Con reaffirmed that agriculture and light industry must be developed and that heavy industry's "most important" role is to equip labor with tools. He listed six essential economic tasks: 1) boosting production, 2) restoring and increasing the productivity of essential economic branches; 3) continuing socialist reforms; 4) satisfactorily allocating and organizing labor; 5) strengthening communication and distribution tasks; and 6) better organizing material and cultural life.

OTHER REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS

Other business of the session included reports by 38 deputies representing various organizations and localities. VNA says the reports "focused on production and fighting" and that a number of them "dealt with culture, medical work, and scientific researches." According to the 6 June VNA report, at its closing session, the assembly "unanimously" elected Nguyen Van Tao, a deputy from Rach Gia, as chairman of the National Reunification Committee of the National Assembly in replacement of the late Tran Huy Lieu. (Lieu died in July 1969.) Tran Duy Hung, a Hanoi deputy, was "unanimously" elected chairman of the National Assembly's Cultural and Social Committee, replacing Nguyen Van Huong, who resigned after being appointed Minister of Public Health.

The assembly also adopted two resolutions, one ratifying the resolutions of the National Assembly's Standing Committee since the fourth session of the National Assembly* and the other on the political report of the Council of Ministers. Both resolutions are broadcast by Hanoi radio on the 9th. The assembly also issued a "statement" on the situation in Indochina, routine in nature, broadcast by Hanoi radio on the 6th and carried by VNA on the 7th. The statement hailed the victories of both the North and the South, and scored the "U.S. imperialists' warlike and stubborn attitude." The statement approved the DRV stand on a settlement of the Vietnam and Indochina questions, supported the NFLSV's 10-point solution, and reaffirmed that the key point to settling the Vietnam question is for the United States to withdraw unconditionally and totally.

* A 1965 National Assembly resolution gave the Standing Committee the power to make decisions between sessions of the assembly, to be submitted at the next session.

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